



Sports & Exhibition Authority
When you have the time, Pittsburgh has the place.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 12, 2011

CONTACT: Mark Leahy, 412-565-6000
David L Lawrence Convention
Center

Mary K. Conturo, 412-393-0200
Sports & Exhibition Authority

SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR CONVENTION CENTER RIVERFRONT PLAZA

River's edge at base of 10th Street Water Feature – May 12 at 11:30 a.m.

PITTSBURGH, Pa. —On Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 11:30 a.m., the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new Convention Center Riverfront Plaza.

“With the completion of this Plaza, there is now a continuous pedestrian and bicycle riverfront trail from Point State Park to the Strip District,” said Senator Wayne Fontana, Chairman of the Sports & Exhibition Authority. “In addition, the pedestrian path through the Convention Center’s waterfalls that starts at 10th and Penn no longer dead ends at the river. It now becomes an additional pedestrian connection to the City’s trail system.”

The project spans 1,300 feet of riverfront and includes a 3,000 sq. ft. public event plaza and an elevated walkway. A new handicap accessible connection is provided from Fort Duquesne Boulevard. There are 10 tie-ups for commercial boats and 27 tie-ups for recreational boats.

Durable materials were used in the design that can withstand flooding and the cleanup afterwards, without deteriorating. Also because of periodic flooding, the plants that were used are native to stream or river locations in southwestern Pennsylvania were used.

The project cost of \$9.5m was funded by federal, state and foundation grants.

“We have invested billions of dollars in our riverfronts during the past decade, not only building first-rate economic and residential developments, but also creating world-class trails, public spaces and recreational opportunities,” said Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato.

*SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR CONVENTION
CENTER RIVERFRONT PLAZA*

Page 2 of 2

“The completion of the Convention Center Riverfront Plaza provides an essential link in the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, which connects the Strip District to Point State Park.”

“Both residents and visitors alike will benefit from the lively event plaza, docking capabilities and additional public green space that the new Convention Center Riverfront Plaza provides,” said Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. “The Plaza also marks an important step forward in our ongoing efforts to transform Pittsburgh's riverfront park system.”

County Executive Dan Onorato and Mayor Luke Ravenstahl joined in thanking the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Heinz Endowments and Laurel Foundation for their generous support of this project.

“Pittsburgh is leading the way among our cities in the commonwealth that recognize that our rivers, green spaces and trails are among our most important assets when it comes to revitalizing our economy,” DCNR Deputy Secretary Cindy Dunn said. “The department is happy to have provided \$1.25 million in grants for this project to help realize the vision of a regional trail system, and connecting citizens and visitors to their rivers and the outdoors.”

###